

# **Commission for Health Advocacy and Equity**

## **Meeting Notes**

**Date: April 15, 2015**

**Time: 3:00 pm -5:00 pm**

**Location: Salvation Army**

*“Making strides to address health equity and the elimination of health disparities in Rhode Island”*

Members and guests present: Members: Chair Tanya Dailey, MD; Co-chair Julie Rawlings; Heriberto Gonzalez; Yvonne Heredia, RN, MS, PhD; Marcus Mitchell; Michael Nina; Kavita Patel; Deborah Perry; Ulli K. Ryder, PhD.; Reginald Tucker-Seeley, ScD; Lanette Baker, RN; Omar Bah, MPA; Azade Perin-Monterroso; Raymond Watson; Taino Palermo. Ex-Officio: Barbara Morin; Chelsea Siefert; Kathryn Enright Guests: Nicole Alexander-Scott, MD; Angela Ankoma; Olivia Kachingwe; Seema Dixit; Elisabeth Becker; John Prince, Jeannette Ayinkamiye, Claudette Nshimiyimana

Members and Ex-Officios unable to attend: Gloria Hincapie; Kenya Fullen; Ana Christina Lindsay; Aradhana Mehta; Georgian Sarpong.. Ex- Officios: Lisa D’Agostino; Aletha Dickerson, MS; Steven Florio; Bernie Frezza; Philip Less, PhD.; Jared Rhodes; Jim Vincent

### **I) Call to Order**

Meeting called to order by Commission Chair, Tanya Dailey

### **II) March 18, 2015 Meetings Minutes**

Meeting minutes approved with one correction to ex-officio list

### **III) Comments on Agenda**

No comments

### **IV) Updates from Co-Chairs**

#### **Welcome of new members**

Taino Palermo – Palermo Consulting

Ray Watson – Mount Hope Neighborhood Association

Lanette Baker, RN – Providence Community Health Centers

### **Strategic Planning for Commission**

Within the upcoming weeks, the co-chairs will be meeting to develop a strategic framework for the commission. Any input and ideas from commission members is welcomed and should be sent to either Tanya Dailey or Julie Rawlings.

### **V) Ex-Officio Updates**

- The role of the ex-officios should be addressed during the strategic planning meeting
- At the next meeting, ex-officios should come prepared to discuss the mission of their agency and the ways in which they can effectively partner with the CHAE. The co-chairs will send all ex-officios a list of questions to help guide this discussion.
- The Department of Administration - Division of Planning, could use assistance from the commission with pushing Road Map RI. Currently, the General Assembly is not in support of the economic development plan, and the only opinions being voiced are those in opposition.

### **VI) Updates From Health**

- This month is Minority Health Month. The theme is “The Heckman Report; 30 Years of Health Disparities.” The Health Equity Summit (on May 7<sup>th</sup>) is considered the closing ceremony. At the summit, the Minority Health Fact Sheets will be distributed.
- Registration for the Health Equity Summit is currently closed. Members that would like to be added to the waiting list should e-mail Seema Dixit.
- HEALTH awarded 11 HEZ grants for a total of \$2.7 million. Over the past few weeks, the HEZ recipients have received an orientation and CLAS standards training.
- The Federal Office of Minority Health recently offered a geographic – focused State Partnership grant. RI’s OMH is in the midst of applying for this grant and plans to focus on reducing youth violence.
- Angela Ankoma recently attended an Open Meetings Policy Review where she was informed that all sub-committee meetings must also meet quorum and publically post their agenda
- Michelle Stewart-Copes, MS, MSW will be leading a CLAS standards training on April 23<sup>rd</sup> 8:30-9:30am at HEALTH. This event is free and open to the public.

#### **VII) Subcommittee Updates**

- Subcommittee co-chairs Julie Rawlings, Yvonne Heredia, and Reginald Tucker-Seely will each be leading a session at the Health Equity Summit.

#### **VIII) Dr. Nicole Alexander-Scott**

- While working with the CHAE, Dr. Alexander-Scott would like for this to be a time of ACTION
- Dr. Alexander-Scott outlined 3 strategic priorities at HEALTH
  - Addressing social and environmental determinants of health
  - Eliminating the disparities of health in RI and promote health equity
  - Ensure access to quality health services for Rhode Islanders, including our vulnerable populations
- Dr. Alexander-Scott’s request of the commission is that we serve as a community voice and incorporate that voice into our strategic framework. Additionally, she asks that we identify key priorities along with possible solutions, and that we align these priorities with HEALTH’s goals and strategic priorities.

#### **IX) Action Items**

- Create a presentation for ex-officios to bring back to their staff.
- Send ex-officios a list of questions to help guide next month’s discussion
- Sign up for a subcommittee
- Respond to Dr. Alexander-Scott’s request.